

# Kentucky Division for Air Quality

## Environmental Education Information

It all adds up to cleaner air



## What You Can Do to Reduce Air Pollution

You can . . .

**. . . Have fun! Ride your bike.** It's a great way to travel and it can help you and the air get into condition. Vehicles on the road create more than 25% of all air pollution nationwide.

**. . . take things in stride.** Walk or in-line skate instead of driving. There are easy ways to get exercise and they are easy on the air.

**. . . take the bus, carpool, or vanpool instead of drive.** Even if you do it just once or twice a week, you will reduce traffic congestion and pollution, and save money. The average driver spends about 44 cents per mile including ownership and maintenance.

**. . . care for your car.** Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life and increase its resale value. It can also reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns and it could reduce your car's emissions by more than half.

**. . . avoid topping off your tank.** You will help the vapor recovery hose do its job of keeping polluting fumes out of the air. **Fact:** Topping off rarely adds much more gas, and almost always makes gas spill, releasing more polluting fumes, and exposing you to benzene, a carcinogen.

**. . . combine car trips.** It's easy! Chances are, you are already doing it – combining your errands into one trip. **Fact:** Much of the pollution a car will cause occurs during the cold start, when the engine starts up after it's been off for 90 minutes or longer. This means that one car trip with stops at the grocery store, video store and drug store could cause almost one-third of the pollution caused by three separate trips.

**. . . get fuel when it's cool.** Refueling during cooler periods of the day or in the evening can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone. And that can help reduce ozone alert days.

**. . . telecommute.** Work at home sometimes. You will save time and money, and reduce emissions and traffic congestion.

**. . . know before you go.** If your area has a travel and transit information network, use it by calling, visiting the web site or tuning into the cable station. Get travel and transit updates before you leave home and you won't get stuck in a jam.

**. . . save energy.** Saving energy helps reduce air pollution. Power Plants burn fossil fuels like coal and oil to produce electricity. When these fossil fuels are burned, pollution is created. For example: turn off the lights when you leave a room; use a fan instead of air conditioning; microwave small meals.

**. . . spread the word.** If everyone took just a few of these simple, easy steps, it could make a big difference.

